

AMENDMENTS

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Please replace paragraph 3 at p. 2 of the specification with the following replacement paragraph, amended as indicated:

- - This lack of toxicity with respect to mammals has made it ~~impossible~~ possible to develop the culturing of transgenic plants expressing a Cry protein, and to use the seeds from these plants for human and animal foodstuffs. However, although they are non-toxic with respect to mammals, some of these proteins are relatively undegraded in the mammalian digestive tract, and this lack of degradation leads to a relatively long persistence of the toxin in the digestive tract of said mammals. In addition, a lack of persistence of Cry proteins in the mammalian digestive tract is one of the criteria taken into account by the administrative authorities (for example the United States Environmental Protection Agency - EPA) which grant marketing authorizations in the food sector for seeds containing these proteins or for products derived from these seeds. -